JOINT SITTING OF THE SRI CHITRA STATE COUNCIL AND THE SRI MULAM ASSEMBLY.

The Joint Sitting met at 3 P. M. with the Dewan-President in the Chair. Mr. C. P. Skrine, Resident for the Madras States, was present, seated by the side of the President on the platform.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Resident, members of the Sri Chitra State Council and Sri Mulam Assembly.

Before I commence addressing the members, it is my duty and my privilege to express to you on behalf of His Highness the Maharaja his congratulations and good wishes. It is his hope and his confident expectation that the labours of the two Houses of the Travancore Legislature will be fruitful of the best results for the State as a whole.

Now, honourable members of the State Council and Legislative Assembly, I have ventured to call you together in virtue of Section 8 under which I have the right of addressing the members of the Council and the Assembly at a joint sitting. I have done so inasmuch as it has been borne in upon me that it is my obligation—as it undoubtedly is my pleasant privilege—to tell you exactly what has been done during the months that have elapsed since the sessions of the last Assembly and the last Council and since their dissolution until now, and to tell you not only what has been done but what will be the programme in the immediate future of the Government.

And, before I discharge that task it is next my very pleasant duty to communicate to the members of the two Houses the felicitations and good wishes of Sir Mahomed Habibullah, my immediate predecessor, of Sir M. Krishnan Nair, of Mr. T. Raghaviah, of Mr. T. Austin, and of other eminent individuals. They have all joined in expressing their confident anticipation that the members of the two Houses will justify the trust reposed in them, by the electorates in the case of elected members, and by the Government and the public in the case of the nominated members, and that they will make good in every way.

I am very glad to announce to you that Their Highnesses will be returning in four days to their Capital, after a tour which had been undertaken not merely for the sake of rest or of pleasure, but which has been educative and informative in the highest sense. I am sure that all of you will join with me in hoping that they will come back refreshed and that His Highness will be enabled by virtue of the experience that he has gained, by virtue of the studies that he has made, to help the State in its work and make a contribution as great as in the past—it cannot be greater than what he has already done—to the progress and the prosperity of the State.

Now, it falls to me to appeal to you all, to the elected as well as the nominated members including the official for helpful co-operation and constructive criticism in the very difficult and the very responsible tasks that confront you and me alike. My work will be [illegible]

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be very difficult indeed if I do not have that co-operation and that discriminating and instructed support which the members of the Legislature can supply as accredited representatives of the people of the State. It is my duty also to appeal to you for harmony *inter se*, for co-operation *inter se*, and for concentration on the great tasks that are before us and that cannot but unite us and not on the little things that divide. It has been a matter of sincere gratification to every one interested in the progress of the State—as it must have been to all of you—to see that the recent elections have taken place in a peaceful atmosphere. I must here acknowledge with lively gratitude the unstinted support that I have received from the Legislature, the Press, and the public of Travancore which have made my task much lighter than it would have been otherwise. It speaks volumes for the good sense of the people of Travancore, for their political consciousness and their political maturity, of judgment that elections in which rival interests of various communities and groups had their play and strong personal interests also came into operation, did not lead to any troubles or overt disharmony but that, instead, on the whole the elections went off not only without incident but in an atmosphere of general peacefulness although political controversy was undoubtedly often acutely in evidence. It is also a matter for profound satisfaction that in the country at large today it can be asserted with some confidence that all the communities realise alike that the tasks in front of them are so great, so imminent and so urgent, that there is no room for small bickerings and small rancours, that the energies of every individual and every community, must be harnessed to that great task and that urgent endeavour.

Now, I propose, in the short time which I shall allow myself, to tell you exactly what has been done in certain directions by the State and what the State proposes to do in the immediate future. Firstly, with regard to the progress of industrial and agricultural development, some time ago, addressing the previous Legislature, I ventured to say that the State made a very great difference between three kinds of activities. The first of them dealt with public utilities of a paramount character, public utilities such as the supply of good water, proper sanitary conditions and light and air. Almost on the same plane is the provision of cheap power for industrial purposes. As to this we have embarked on a definite programme. These are things which are fundamental necessities. Not on the same plane as those necessities, but hardly less important from the point of view of commercial and industrial progress, is the problem of transport, transport by road, by rail, by sea and by canal. The policy of the Travancore Government has been, and will be, to regard these as State enterprises or State obligations, namely the supply of power, the supply of good water, the bringing into existence of proper public health conditions and the provision of cheap, efficient and safe transport.

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[President.]

But there is another class of undertakings which may be said to be experimental. There are certain nascent industries, there are certain possibilities of development in which private initiative cannot do much to start with, unless initial encouragement were given. Thus, for instance, in the case of rubber manufacture, although rubber was at hand, it required Government initiative and push and therefore the Government of Travancore started making rubber goods. But these experiments are not and should not be an end in themselves. These experiments should not develop into commercial undertakings in which the Government does business for the sake of getting profit. It is neither good for the State nor for the business and therefore as soon as such experiments have ended in comparative success, it is the duty of the State to hand over these experiments to private enterprise and the results of these experiments must be made available to others to do the best they can, in other words, Government should at the right time give place to private enterprise. It is on those lines that certain experimental endeavours have been made by this Government.

Lastly, there are commercial undertakings in which, albeit that the Government may choose to exercise some kind of supervision, some kind of control, lessening the control as time rolls by, yet the Governments duty and its obligation will only be to see that things are properly done and that the public interests are safeguarded and otherwise to leave private enterprise to evolve these enterprises along the best lines.

Having those principles in mind, the State had to deal with the question of two or three enterprises which had been giving considerable trouble and anxiety to the State. There is what was called the Thackalay Sugars—a business started under good auspices, but which somehow failed to make good. There was a lot of difficulty in regard to the functioning of the Thackalay Sugars. Government came to the conclusion that all the possible disabling factors in its working must be removed. What were they? The Travancore Sugars dealt with jaggery produced from the palmyra. In that enterprise there was a powerful competition exercised by another agency which practically holds a dominant position in South Indian Sugar Industry, Messrs. Parry and Co. They hold a great position in the north of the Madras Presidency and they hold almost the same position in the south also. When we wanted jaggery to produce sugar, we could not get it throughout the year because of their competition. The result was that that factory was working for five or six months of the year and could not work during the rest of the period. The waste products of the Travancore Sugars were not being utilised as they might be in such undertakings as the distilleries. The Sugars worked as a separate undertaking. The alcohol that was produced in the distilleries was not being utilised as it might be for pharmaceutical and chemical purposes. In order to obviate waste and to concentrate effort, Government entered into negotiations with Messrs. Parry and Co., and certain other gentlemen in Travancore. I am glad to say that within a week a company

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will be floated in Travancore with a capital of Rs. 20 lakhs. Now I want to say that it was possible for the Travancore Government to get Rs. 20 lakhs put down on the table. But, the Government of Travancore are wedded to the policy of making these enterprises Travancore enterprises to the fullest extent possible. And therefore a Travancore company will be floated. To the extent to which Travancoreans rise to the occasion and take shares in the company, Travancore will have a share in the enterprise. If they do not take shares, the Company will go on. But I know that this contingency need not be contemplated because I am glad to announce that certain important men in Travancore have come to our aid and have practically underwritten all the amount that is necessary. The idea of Government was that this ought to be no longer a Government undertaking and that it should be handed over to private agencies. If Government manage it, how can they undertake to do commercial work? How can Government advertise adequately and how can they do all those commercial acts appertaining to agencies propoganda and marketing which Government cannot possibly undertake. Success in commercial matters depends upon many factors which are not associated with official efficiency. But at the same time Government have come to the conclusion that in all such undertakings Government should play a part in the general supervision. There will be a Government Director with no right to vote but only the right to scrutinise all that takes place and to act as a kind of adviser and watchdog of the public interests. Government will get 20 per cent of the net profit of this venture. Government will also get in cash 3·25 lakhs for the Sugars, 1·90 lakhs for the Distilleries and about 20,000 rupees for the Tinctures out of which Government will pay for the shares it purchased in the Sugar Company to obtain full control over its shareholding. These are the terms under which the Government have entered into this transaction. The details of the transaction will be before the public in about a week.

The case of rubber was more or less similar, although, the same kind of terms were not entered into with the rubber company. But we are still hopeful that, in the case of rubber also, more or less similar arrangements will be entered into in course of time. Anyhow, the manufacture of rubber has become sufficiently remunerative as a commercial proposition and the lessees are doing very well. The general policy with regard to joint stock companies is that the Government of Travancore have come to the conclusion that every inducement will be given to Travancoreans and also to outsiders to start companies provided such companies will be Travancore companies subject to Travancore laws and also subject in addition to the State getting a legitimate share of the profits to three more conditions superadded, namely (i) that the fullest facilities will be given to Travancore capital to come in, (ii) that no company shall function here unless an undertaking is given that a certain number of Travancoreans can be apprenticed in the working of such company, in the clerical, manufacturing, industrial, and directional details of the concern, and (iii) that Travancoreans will be

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primarily employed in such companies unless the company has in the proved interests of efficiency to entertain outsiders as specialists etc. It is on that basis that companies will hereafter be allowed to come into existence in Travancore. In other words, a legitimate share of the profits, apprenticeship and training and entertainment in all grades as far as practicable for Travancoreans, and the fullest facilities for Travancore capital to be invested, these are the general lines on which companies shall come into existence in Travancore hereafter.

It is on these lines that the Government have recently dealt with the future issue of licenses for minerals a matter on which, hitherto, there was no definite policy. Till very recently large tracts of land were being given away practically on nominal terms. Hereafter, unless ten per cent. of the net profits are given to the State, no license will be given for the mining of minerals. Also the company should agree to the apprenticeship and training of young men of this country, as well as to its employees being Travancoreans as far as possible. That is the principle on which mineral licenses will be given hereafter.

With regard to another industrial enterprise, namely, China clay or kaolin, our policy is on a separate footing. After research, and inquiry we have satisfied ourselves that the kaolin produced in Travancore is next only to the product of China which is considered to be the very best in Asia. Also, considering the fact that no great technical skill is required to transmute that China clay into the commercial product, the idea at present is to confine our attention at first to the refining of the raw product which, will be more or less a Government monopoly and which will be retained as such until the time comes when the manufacture of porcelain articles pipes, stoneware, crucibles, fireproof bricks etc , can be thought of as a commercial enterprise. The idea at present therefore is to deal with the raw product and not to embark upon elaborate porcelain and other ceramic ventures except by way of experiments.

I now come to the question of transport. That problem has been tackled by the Government of Hyderabad ; and you will be interested to learn that, already, within a year of its formation, the Transport Department there, is paying the Government 10 per cent. per annum on the outlay. What we propose to do is to start with experimental routes, say, Trivandrum to Nagercoil. We have already bespoken the necessary material and stock and we shall have things ready by October. Then we propose to run our buses on that route and if that enterprise succeeds the whole question of the transport in the State will have to be steadily reorganised. We are also making certain enquiries in regard to canals and how to widen and deepen them and to improve transport in canals.

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All that is with regard to industrial and manufacturing possibilities of the State. But the whole of this programme is based and is dependent upon the right type of education, and the utilisation of the intelligence, the trained intelligence of the country along the lines of nation-building and wealth-producing activity. As I have already stated and reiterated very often, we have got the great asset in the State of an educated, a trained, set of persons; only that training and that education have so far been directed and devoted—not on account of the fault of the people but because of the system which has been in vogue—not to the production of wealth, but to clerical and professional pursuits. It is therefore the policy of this Government so to reorient the educational policy of the State, so to co-ordinate the educational enterprise of the State, that it might be possible for a young man to be trained from the beginning in some handicraft, in some artisanship, in something which he might do with his own hand in addition to what he can do solely with his brains; in other words, secondary education will have to be reorganised so that promotion from class to class will not be given to a student merely because he is good in a language or in algebra or in arithmetic, but only if he also gets a certain proportion of marks in some manual craft, some artisanship, suited to his locality, suited to the environment, in which he must be made proficient. He must be able to put his hand to some particular handicraft. This training as well as physical training are essential parts of the youth's equipment for life.

The first education should be physical education. Our country needs that badly. The second would be the manual and craft education, and the third, the literary education. These three will go together. Secondary education having been reorganised, it becomes essential that University education should be completely, thoroughly, reorganised so as to be the climax of that kind of education. This is the reason and not any jealousies, not any inhospitalities, nor any parochial narrowness of outlook, why Travancore has determined to have a University of its own to develop the personalities and genius of her people on lines best suited to her immediate programme both on the cultural and on the technical sides. I am hoping, with the constructive criticism that I shall get from the members of the two Houses and also the public criticisms which will, I trust, be creative, that we shall successfully tackle those manifold problems which confront us in a world where the weakest and the lesser equipped go to the wall. We shall strive to make our University not a manufactory of those who have nothing to look forward to excepting unemployment, but a place from where people will come out, will emerge, as creators of things, creators of ideas and the moulders of their environment.

For all these plans there must be a financial basis. Take the agricultural situation and the terrible rural indebtedness. Your predecessors have brought into existence the Conciliation Boards whose object it is to bring the debtors and creditors together, to deal with the

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engrossing problem of debts in this country and to make it possible for the debtor to unload some of that debt and to apply himself efficiently to his own primary tasks. That cannot be done without a financial machinery. Our Land Mortgage Bank is conducted on the basis of certain rules and its efforts are like those of a person who is seeking to empty the ocean with a few thimbles. It is impossible. Unless you have a Land Mortgage and Industrial Bank with adequate public and Government backing devoted to long-term credit and unless that Bank functions not as an institution spoon-fed by Government, but independently though the Government may under-write some of its activities, the future of conciliation and rural reconstruction is dark. All these cottage industries and manufactories will come to no good, unless you have got properly devised financial assistance. That is why Government have come to the conclusion that it is essential to bring into existence at no distant date such a Land Mortgage and Industrial Bank. Steps are being taken for the purpose. Further details will be reported to you and your assent will be asked for and it is confidently expected that it will be given.

In saying all these—to quote one of the critics—I am not indulging in grandiose schemes. These statements may sound grandiose. But grandiose or not they represent elementary necessities. In our present situation and under present world industries we must make these experiments and we must succeed or we go under. This is a period important in the history of the world, certainly in the history of the State. The only thing we must not do is that we must not try to start enterprises which will encounter world competition. Half the trouble in many places is due to this factor. Speaking of the paper industry, as a friend of mine told me this morning, how can Travancore compete with great corporations whose pension list itself is more than the revenue of this State? Paper, soap, iron, are commodities of this character. If with our resources we start these things except on a very limited scale and for limited purposes we shall be dumped out of existence. But Travancore fortunately has certain natural and practical monopolies, such as China clay, many minerals, rubber and above all softwoods for pulp and rayon production in which the prospects are most attractive. Let us concentrate on them. Without seeking to encounter crushing competition we must start our industries. Furthermore, in the region of agriculture we must think of new methods of production and marketing and new crops and products, cloves and soyabean in addition to intensive production of cashew and pineapple and the canning of fruit and fish and their marketing.

The State has quite recently issued certain rules regarding the recruitment to the judiciary which all of you must have read. The idea is that the State should recruit to the judiciary the fittest possible person. It is hoped that those rules will produce the objects aimed at by Government.

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Similarly certain rules have been made for the purpose of seein that delay and corruption are banished from the Public Service. want to make one point perfectly clear. I have had a certain amoun of experience of the Civil Service in other parts of the world. I knov of the Civil Service at first hand in England. I also know of the Civi Service in Delhi. I know it in Madras. I can say that your Civl Service will yield to no one, either in regard to integrity or intelligence All that the service wants is a certain direction. I am sure that w shall not be unjustified in our ambitions for them and our reliance o1 them.

I do not propose to speak to you on the finances of the State There is another occasion, speedily coming on, during the Budget Session when I shall speek to you at length on that subject. I am glad t(tell you, in passing, that our finances are looking up and that there hav(been certain windfalls.

But before I quit the subject, there are two matters on which I wish to speek to you very emphatically. These are, firstly, smuggling and, secondly evasion of the payment of income-tax and other State dues. I have before me certain schemes to prevent the evasion of income-tax and the Government is resolved upon pursuing these schemes We all know the limits of agricultural taxation. It is the object of the Government to lessen the burden on the peasant and to make it possible for agricultural indebtedness to be eliminated, gradually but nevertheless, surely. How can that be done unless the people who have other sources of income play their part in the matter of aiding the State. To the members of both the Houses of the Legislature, I cannot but talk fully and frankly; it would be unfair to you and unfair to myself if I do not. What do I find? I find that some of the biggest enterprises in the State pay about a fifth of the income-tax that I have been paying before I became the Dewan of Travancore. It appears to me that there must be something wrong in the method, something faulty in legislation, something terribly out of date as to assessment, something wrong in the scrutiny, something wrong somewhere. It behoves us to see to it that those who can bear the burden shoulder that burden. I trust that what I say will not be misinterpreted or construed in any wrong spirit.

Then comes the question of smuggling. You know what British Indian effort has done in the Pondicherry frontier and the resounding success of the efforts to check smuggling on the French frontier. This smuggling that takes place in our country deprives the Government of between Rs. 20 to 30 lakhs every year. You will realise that if we get this amount of our legitimate revenue, a big slice of it could go to the relief of the agriculturist and the backward communities. I confidently appeal for help, for assistance, for co-operation, in the matter of seeing to it that these sources of revenue which are due from

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persons who are able to pay and who must be made to pay are made available to the State for the sake of its programme. I may inform you that, quite recently, the Government of Travancore and the Government of Madras have come to an understanding with regard to the Anjengo and Tangacherry leases, and the new arrangement will take effect from the 1st of July. In other words, the kind of machinery by which Travancore, as the lessee, was collecting excise and customs dues from Anjengo and Tangacherry will cease to operate from the 1st of July, and the British Government will collect their own customs and excise in that area from that date; and the Governments of India and of Madras and the Government of Travancore will have to take proper steps to see that the smuggling going on in the frontier is eliminated. Similarly steps will have to be taken for the prevention of smuggling in other frontiers also. Such steps have already been initiated but they depend for success in the support extended to us by our patriotic citizens. That is all I have to say on what may be called the internal affairs of the State and the programme for the immediate future. Now, you may well ask me 'what about the engrossing question of Federation.' Some time ago, I took the occasion to speak to a group of public men on this question of Federation, and I shall take occassion later to speak again on this question to the members of the two Houses or to a committee on certain details of the matter. But one thing I might assert. I want it to be borne in mind that the Travancore Government yield to none in the adherence to the general ideals of Federation which is inevitable, if India is to progress on right lines. Nevertheless, Travancore must and will claim that she should not suffer in her revenue and should not be an ineffective member of the Federation, a disabled or infirm member of the Federation. On the otherhand her finances must be commensurate with her growing needs and her general level of advancement and progress. I do not propose to say more than this. But I may assure you that Travancore is confident that she has got a good case with regard to customs, the revision of Interportal Convention, and the question of Tribute

These are difficult, delicate subjects to handle in public. I only mention the subject of tribute, because it has been so handled recently by a statesman belonging to a sister State. Its claim has been strongly pressed and perhaps rightly stressed. I wish merely to say that the claims of Travancore to a remission of tribute are at least as good as the claims of any other State. You may take it that the Government of Travancore have put before the paramount power, have put before the various Committees that have investigated these matters, their necessities and their claims. After all, in these matters it is a question of give and take, it is a question of compromise, it is a question of friendly negotiations. In that negotiation the Government will confidently ask after having taken counsel with you that we should be supported in our efforts to get the best terms that we possibly can for the State, bearing in mind on the one hand that we cannot cripple ourselves financially, bearing in mind

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that in view to our history, our progress and our potentialities we shall enter Federation in a position of inferiority to no other State, bearing in mind on the other hand that without some measure of sacrifice a great joint endeavour cannot be brought into being or come to function. In that spirit of give and take, in that spirit of mutual goodwill, this State will negotiate with regard to Federation.

There is just one last word and I have done. I refer to it, merely because not to refer to it would be hypocritical and to blind oneself to what is passing around. I am referring to certain religious and semi-religious controversies that are taking place, between us and a sister State. I have made an appeal to the Press to be restrained in its comments. I have made an appeal to the public of Travancore not to indulge in criticism of the Ruler of a friendly neighbouring State. At the same time I have made it clear that we have our views and we shall adhere to our convictions and implement them and work for their acceptance throughout India. But we shall not do so aggressively, angrily, in a bad temper. We shall do so in peace and in exclusive reliance on the justice and essential righteousness of our programme. We shall not interfere with any one's rights or convictions but we shall endeavour to maintain such rights as we can legitimately assert.

Members of both Houses, I have finished. I wish you God-speed in all your constructive efforts tending to the amelioration of Travancore conditions. We have the great good fortune of having as a Ruler one who lives for us, whose dreams are for us, whose aspirations are for us and whose ambitions are centred on his State and his people. That is a priceless asset With that at your back and fortified by your loyalty to his throne and your devotion to Travancore I feel confident that you will be able to discharge your duties adequately, worthily and nobly.

MR. M. GOVINDAN (*Member, Sri Chitra State Council*) : Sir, we have listened with great pleasure and hope, to your very lucid and interesting speech, giving an account of the various reforms which you have already undertaken. They have filled us with great hopes. But, before I proceed to speak anything with regard to them, may I request you, Sir, to convey to His Highness the Maharaja our heartfelt thanks for the very gracious message of congratulation which His Highness has been pleased to convey thrugh you to us.

We also request you, Sir, to convey to His Highness and the Royal party our devout prayers for their safe journey home. In referring to the reforms which you have undertaken in Travancore in recent times you have taken us into confidence with regard to the real difficulties that confront the Government and you have asked for our co-operation in all your endeavours. I may assure you, Sir, that you will have the heartiest co-operation from all sides of this House in respect of the various undertakings which the Government have now in hand with a view to the material and moral progress of the State.

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[Mr. M. Govindan.]

The industrial reforms which you have inaugurated are bound to convert agricultural Travancore into an industrial country without, at the same time, the defects that we notice in highly industrialised countries. When we read the message which His Highness the Maharaja gave in reply to an address at Colombo we knew that His Highness has at heart the regeneration of this country along lines which will tend to the material progress of the State without the drawbacks of industrialism which attend such industrial development in western countries. Now that the reforms have been undertaken I may assure you once more that you need not be afraid that small bickerings between ourselves would fritter away our energies. The Travancorean knows what is best for himself and we are sure that the future of the country is safe in the hands of the present Dewan. With these words I assure you of our heartiest co-operation in all the undertakings.

MR. N. ABDUR RAHIMAN SAHIB (*Member, Sri Chitra State Council*): Sir, it gives me great pleasure to speak a few words in support of what has been said by the honourable member Mr. Govindan. There is no gainsaying the fact that today marks a new era in the annals of Travancore history. This is the first session of the Legislature under your able guidance, and it is a happy augury that this Joint Session of the Legislature has been convened under your illustrious presidency. Sir, you have referred in detail to the various measures of reform and the various industrial activities calculated to do good to the country at large. Time does not permit me to refer in detail to all those activities now. All the same, it is a matter of supreme gratification that the bold industrial policy, initiated by your predecessor, is being continued with great vigour and enthusiasm for the economic rehabilitation of the country and for the progress and prosperity of the teeming millions of His Highness' subjects. Sir, the earnestness and zeal with which you are carrying on the administration and the new life you have infused into the administrative machinery go to show that Travancore is progressing from more to more. I would be failing in my duty if I do not request you to convey to His Gracious Highness the Maha Raja our feelings of unswerving loyalty and devotion to the Royal House. In regard to the message of congratulations and good wishes conveyed by you to us, I assure you, Sir, that it has instilled in us a new vigour and inspiration. May I also assure you, Sir, that it will be our constant endeavour to act up to the high ideals you have spoken of just now and to justify the trust reposed in us by our electorate. Also it will be our cherished desire to heartily co-operate with you in carrying on those administrative measures which are calculated for the uplift of the country.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Member, Sri Mulam Assembly*): On behalf of the non-official members of the Assembly, I tender you our heartfelt thanks for your kind words of welcome and encouragement. We have been closely following your efforts towards the economic advancement of the State. In particular, representing with the permission of the trade constituencies, the trade and industry of the State, the two

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Chambers of Commerce, and along with my friend Mr. Tolson, the agricultural and the planting interests of the State, I may submit, Sir, that we appreciate your efforts towards the material progress of this State. We have been following your efforts towards the electrification of the State, the solution of the transport problem, the introduction of new industries and manufacturing enterprises, your efforts at securing financial help for these enterprises and your further efforts to solve the problem of agricultural indebtedness. I may assure you, Sir, that we shall always be happy to co-operate with you. If at any time you notice any critical spirit in us, you will please take it, Sir, that it is because we think such criticism would be in the best interests of the State. To quote myself, let me state again, Sir, that we realise that your ideal has been to demonstrate to the world the heights to which an Indian State can rise at the hands of a dynamic administrator.

I request you, Sir, to convey to His Highness the Maha Raja our profound sense of devotion and loyalty for the gracious message he has sent through you, and to convey our thanks to your predecessors who have remembered us on this occasion and sent us their good wishes.

MR. KOTTUR KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Member, Sri Chitra State Council*): Sir, you have given us a conspectus of the manifold activities on which this State has embarked. Many of those who spoke before me have referred to them and have spoken in appreciative terms about those very necessary and fundamental activities which are sure to enure to the benefit and advancement of the State as a whole. It is not for me at this juncture to dilate on them even briefly. You have been always careful to take public opinion into account in embarking upon all these great enterprises and we have been kept, though not formally, informed about these schemes. We have been more or less in touch with them because you have taken care to let the country know about them before you embarked on any such schemes. You have also gathered from the opinion expressed by the public their high approval of these schemes and the readiness of their co-operation. We, here in the Assembly and the Council, as the representatives of the people, deem it a great pleasure and a privilege to offer you, in your great endeavours, our hearty co-operation for the regeneration of our State. One thing I may be pardoned if I stress upon. I am glad to find that Government have now realised that it is not possible for Governments to carry on pioneering industries, especially in a State where there are democratic institutions like the Assembly and the Council which are very parsimonious, as you may have found, in their tendencies and whose criticisms on commercial undertakings have been made often without a delicate cure to safeguard their delicate cure and reputation. You have realised the necessity of handing over these institutions, as soon as it is possible, to private concerns; for it has been the history of pioneering industries all the world over where States undertook them, they have had to take an attitude of timid unremitting apology when inconvenient questions were put. I am glad, Sir, that you have taken the present policy of handing them over as soon as possible to private concerns

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[Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai.]

and you have also taken care to see that they are not given away to capitalistic endeavours from outside the State, neglecting the interests of the State altogether. You have taken ample care to protect the interests of the people and the State.

Another question to which you have addressed yourself is a matter of great importance, *viz.*, the re-organisation of education. Education is the one chief achievement over which the State prides. Though it may not be the direct result of education the fact that unemployment exists, in this State more than anywhere else in India cannot be denied I presume that we have got to face the problem of educated unemployment here more than anywhere else. I am glad, Sir, to find that you have boldly embarked upon the scheme of reorganising education from top to bottom. Without that, our enterprises cannot succeed. We may not be able to supply the men wanted by these developing industries and we will not have the necessary material to man the many projects that will be nearing fruition in the immediate future. My special congratulations are therefore to you for embarking upon this very bold venture of reorganizing education and thus setting an example to the whole of India in the matter of educational reform.

Another question you have referred to I consider it of considerable importance—the prevention of smuggling and the prevention of the evasion of the payment of income tax. I take pride, Sir, that I was one of the first to bring to the notice of Government the existence of smuggling on a large scale in Travancore in my first budget speech in the Legislative Council which was the predecessor of the present Assembly. I am glad, Sir, that you have admitted in unmistakable terms the prevalence of widespread smuggling and the leakage of a substantial sum of money through that. I hope, Sir, you will do everything in your power to stop this smuggling boldly and to use the amounts thus realised for the relief of the agriculturists from the burden of tax and debts.

It is not very proper, Sir, to dilate upon these various other topics which are of great interest as we will have occasion soon to ventilate our views on them. We consider ourselves to be fortunate to be associated with the administration of the State at this critical juncture when we are really making history. The gracious message of congratulations and good wishes from His Highness the Maharaja we have listened to with a thrill. We know, Sir, that there is no greater patriot living in this country than His Highness the Maharaja. It will be our duty and privilege to act according to his wishes and work unitedly and whole-heartedly for the good of the State. I request you, Sir, to convey our humble and loyal gratitude to His Highness the Maharaja for his words of congratulation and good wishes.

MR T. M. VARUGHESE (*Member, Sri Mulam Assembly*): Sir, I deem it a pleasant duty to respond to the address of welcome which you have extended to the members and to your invitation, in such agreeable terms, for our co-operation. I do not think it necessary or

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appropriate to refer in detail to the very encouraging assurances and the lofty sentiments given expression to in your address. We shall soon have the opportunity to enter upon a critical analysis and discussion of the suggestions made in your address. But in the matter of the co-operation you ask for, I think I am expressing the sentiments of all the members of this House when I say that co-operation will be our watch word. It will be our endeavour to co-operate as much as we can. It will also be our attempt to find out points of agreement, and not search for points of disagreement, so that the schemes and projects you have in view for the material, economic, and educational advancement of the country may receive encouragement to the fullest possible extent. At the same time I hope the Government on their part will make it possible for the members of the two Houses as the chosen representatives of the people to co-operate with the Government. I don't think it is necessary or desirable at this stage to go further into the various questions raised in your address. We know that with a view to advance the country's interests, you are inaugurating various schemes for the improvement of industries, the reorganisation of the system of education on practical lines, the improvement of transport and the encouragement of private enterprise. Some of these schemes may not be easy to be put through or completed immediately. We are very pleased to note that you invite our intelligent constructive criticism and you, Sir, may rest assured our co-operation will be forthcoming in the spirit in which you have asked it of us, for we feel assured that the object and purpose of the reforms and schemes you have referred to in your address are the advancement of the country's interests and the welfare of its peoples. I sincerely and strongly feel that we the members of the Legislature owe it to His Highness the Maharaja and to His Highness' subjects that by the criticisms we offer and the discussions we enter upon in this House and in general by faithfully and unselfishly discharging the trust reposed in us by His Highness the Maharaja and the people we help the Government and the people to understand each other aright so that by our efforts the well-being of the people and the interests of the country may be advanced in however small a degree.

If I undestand you aright, there was a small suggestion in your address that it should be our constant endeavour to see if we can agree among ourselves, sink small differences and bring about harmony in the House so that such harmony and concord here created, may permeate throughout the country and make the people happy and contented. Sir, the people of Travancore left to themselves, are naturally inclined to live in peace and harmony and it may not be difficult for the Government and the members of the Legislature by their co-operation to make the people happy and contented.

Sir, I crave your indulgence and that of my friends if I have digressed. I hope, I have not.

I would, before concluding, perform the most important and the most pleasing part of my duty, namely, to request you, Sir, to convey

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[Mr. T. M. Varughese.]

to His Highness the Maharaja our feelings of devotion and loyalty to His Highness the Maharaja and also the fact that we are ever praying for the safe and happy return of His Highness the Maharaja and the Royal party as early as possible to the State. Sir, you have rightly suggested in the address that the Royal tour to the distant parts will be a source of increased contentment and happiness to the people and that the advantages of the tour which His Highness has undertaken will accrue to His Highness' subjects who are anxiously awaiting His Highness' return.

I would, in conclusion thank you, Sir, for the kind and encouraging words of welcome that you addressed to us and I assure you once again the co-operation of the House to the fullest extent to which it will be possible for us to co-operate in a manner compatible with the responsibilities and duties that are cast upon us as representatives of the people.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Member, Sri Mulam Assembly*): Sir, it is with feelings of joy and gratitude that we are assembled to help you in the administration of the State. May I be permitted to request you, Sir, to convey to His Highness our sense of loyalty and devotion to His Highness and the members of the Royal family. It is a pleasing duty, Sir, to mention the determined effort that we, the chosen representatives of the people, are making to make life happier in the State. You, Sir, on your part are trying to help us in the promotion of good feeling and prosperity by the very noble activities that you are urging the State upon. In the first place, Sir, your announcement relating to the starting of a new University is calculated to bring about a feeling of oneness, a feeling that we are all people of a single State working for its advancement and its prosperity. It is that feeling, it is that education, it is that sense, that may probably be wanting, at the present moment, but we hope that by the fruition of the idea you have put before us, the fruition of your endeavours in that line, Travancore will find that its people entertain the feeling that they are all members of a single State combined to work towards its prosperity and its happiness. We are also glad to know, Sir, that your endeavours for the material and economic advancement and prosperity of the State are also calculated to infuse confidence and contentment in the public mind. Contentment, Sir, is a matter which can be achieved to a very large extent if there is material economic prosperity in the State. There is nothing like poverty which would breed discontent. If that problem is tackled successfully, I for my part believe that you would have taken us a great way in the achievement of the object that you yourself and we have in view, that of building up and promoting the feeling that we are all members of a single State. I am forced to mention this fact, Sir, and to bring to your pointed notice the extreme poverty, the economic poverty of many of these institutions in the State.

We are surprised to hear that all the banking institutions of the State pay only a small fraction of the income tax.

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PRESIDENT: Order, order. I did not refer to any particular institution.

MR. PUTHUPALLY S. KRISHNA PILLAI: Sir, I fully believe that the shortage of income tax collection is not due to the fact that we are not willing to pay but that it is due to the fact that there is not much to pay. It must be due to that. Enable us to earn more and then secure from us a greater amount. It is with that view that we are endeavouring to co-operate with every sound policy that is adumbrated by you. The Rubber Factory, as you said, has brought into existence other Rubber Factories. The scheme that you propose of bringing into existence a Land Mortgage and Industrial Bank will, I am sure, be welcomed by all people. It was economic poverty which induced us to fight for Debt Conciliation Boards. It is our inability to cope with indebtedness that has compelled us to request Government to embark upon large schemes and enable us to forget the pettty differences that you might probably find around us. Sir, the several schemes that you have already embarked upon, the few schemes that you are going to embark upon, I am sure will bring contentment and prosperity to the whole State I may also be permitted to state that we are all glade to hear that His Highness will be returning to the capital in a couple of days after his sojourn in the East. May I again be permitted to request you Sir, to convey to His Highness the fact that His Highness' subjects are always willing to carry out His Highness' commands. We also request you to convey to His Highness our abiding loyalty and devotion to His Highness. With these few words I resume my seat.

SRIMATI T. NARAYANAI AMMA (*Member, Sri Mulam Assembly*): Sir, may I also avail myself of this opportunity to convey my sincere thanks to the Government of His Highness the Maharaja for nominating me and my sisters here. I do so on behalf of the womanhood of Travancore, who, I feel have been honoured by three of them being nominated. Sir, Travancore has always been in the forefront in respect of educational and administrative progress. The present Government is winning well-deserved and universal laurels by the various measures of enlightened and high-souled statesmanship introduced. The nomination of women to both the Houses of Legislature is in keeping with such a progressive policy, and I thank the Government of His Highness the Maharaja once agam therefor. I beg to assure you, Sir, that we, the women members, shall always remember the aims, ideals and aspirations of the present Government and we shall endeavour to the best of our ability to conduct ourselves in such a way as to be useful members of this august body. I extend my sincere thanks to you, Sir, for the kind words of good wishes offered.

SRIMATI K. DEVAKI ANTHARJANAM (*Member, Sri Mulam Assembly*): അന്ധവിശ്വാസവും അനാചാരവുംകൊണ്ടു വളരെക്കാലമായി അവശത അനുഭവിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്ന നമ്പൂതിരി സമുദായത്തിൽനിന്നും പ്രത്യേ

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[Srimathi K. Devaki Antharjanam.]

കിച്ചും നമ്പൂതിരിസമുദായത്തിലെ കഷ്ടതകളും മുഴുവൻ അനുഭവിക്കുന്ന അന്തർജ്ജന സമുദായത്തിൽനിന്നും എന്നെക്കൂടി ശ്രീമൂലം അസംബ്ളിയിലോട്ട നാമനേറ്റ് ചെയ്തതിന് മഹാരാജാവു് തിരുമനസ്സിനോടും അവിടത്തെ ഗവണ്മെൻറിനോടും ദിവാൻ സർ. സി. പി. രാമസ്വാമി അയ്യർ അവർകളോടും എനിക്കുള്ള ഹൃദയംഗമമായ കൃതജ്ഞതയെ സവിനയം ഇവിടെ പ്രകാശിപ്പിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

MR. K. G. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Member, Sri Mulam Assembly*): Permit me, Sir, to add my felicitations for your brilliant performance.

Sir, you have asked for our co-operation, and my friends have said that you will have their hearty co-operation. Permit me, Sir, to say that such co-operation shall always be discriminating co-operation (Mr. Kochikkal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: *Hear, hear*). You have referred to a number of schemes which require great study, about which there is fundamental difference of opinion. Therefore, Sir, when these questions come up for discussion before this House, you will expect us to voice different aspects of the problems in a very straightforward manner. Nevertheless, it shall be co-operation.

PRESIDENT: Not to do so would be worthy neither of you nor of the House.

MR. K. G. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI: I want, Sir, to refer particularly to two problems. You mentioned the question of Federation. On that matter, Sir,.....

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Member, Sri Mulam Assembly*): On a point of order, Sir. Is the Dewan's speech open to such discussion?

PRESIDENT: It is open to remarks, remarks if not mechanical assent, sometimes of dissent.

MR. K. G. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI: With regard to this question of Federation, Sir, I want to assure you that, even at some sacrifice, we shall gladly support your efforts to join the Federation; because we feel that, if, in Federated India, we secure a proper place, we will get all-round world-wide importance and benefit.

Another point which you referred to was our small differences with the sister State. We have secured a great boon and an inestimable privilege when His Highness issued the Temple Entry Proclamation; and we shall not allow that Proclamation to be questioned, or in any sense belittled. Of course, we shall be dignified; we shall be courteous. But we shall stand by our rights and privileges.

In conclusion, Sir, I also join with my friends in according our grateful and loyal welcome to His Highness on his return home after his tour in the East.

MR. J. E. A. PERIERA (*Member, Sri Mulam Assembly*): In response to your call for co-operation, Sir, I beg to assure you that, with regard to the policy of economical re-generation of the country chalked

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out by you, Travancore has all along been content to be merely agricultural. Throughout the world, countries which have been content to be merely agricultural have not been able to solve their financial and other problems. Therefore, the policy for industrilising the country that you have chalked out is a step in the right direction; and all those who are interested in the real prosperity of the country are sure to co-operate heartily with you in the steps that you propose to take for the advancement of the country.

I join with my friends and request you to convey to His Highness our loyalty and devotion, and grateful thanks for His Highness' kind and gracious message.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Member, Sri Mulam Assembly*): At the very outset, Sir, before I speak a few words, I request you to convey our feelings of loyalty and devotion to His Highness the Maharaja and also our heartfelt thanks for the gracious Message which His Highness has been pleased to deliver through you. I propose to deny myself the powers of dilating upon the several references made by various members of this House as well as of the other House with regard to the proposals in your speech of commercial activities of the Government, because, as has been already referred to, those are subjects which naturally admit of different understandings and different interpretations as well as of different points of view to approach. I feel this is not an opportune moment to refer to such aspects. I would only invite your attention, Sir, to this that I expected that you will have more sentences in your address with reference to the condition of the peasants than what you had at least the goodness to refer. I mean I fully realise the feelings, Sir, that were visible in the one or two crisp sentences you used with reference to the condition of peasants. I would invite your immediate attention to the present day condition of the peasants. I have no objecton to the State launching upon so many schemes of utility but at the same time I would invite your particular attention to the present-day condition of the peasants for prompt attention and redress. It is no exageration at all when I say that the conditions of the peasants of today are not only cracking but gradually breaking. Nature has also it would seem combined against their interest and welfare. I may say, Sir, that instead of a heavy shower at this time of the year we are, as it were, enjoying - I do not know whether it is agreeable, but to me it is very disgreeable—an ironical smile of the sun. Instead of monsoon showering now, it is warm sun. This itself is a very index of the feelings of Nature in regard to the present conditions of the peasants.

Sir, I really feel one with you in the sentiments which you gave expression to when you said that you proposed to stop all smuggling with a view to get more revenue and stamp out such non-moral acts; the intention of Government to combat leakages in revenue is welcome, as the State is legtimately entitled to get its dues from people who make money in the State. I am only glad to render the

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[Mr. M. Sivatanu Pillai.]

utmost help I can to the Government in their attempt to stop smuggling and also to tap all sources of getting a legitimate income from people who make money. But before you finish such attempts, I only request you, Sir, to concentrate Government's attention on the present condition of the peasants before it becomes too late.

With regard to the industrial schemes, Sir, as I said before, I do not propose to make any observations now. After all they are only schemes which are being now launched with the deliberate intention of promoting the welfare of the country; and there will be time enough to evaluate them after they are worked for some time. I was very closely listening and gladly too, to those details that have been pictured to us by you, Sir, with regard to the initiations of such schemes and I know, to our own benefit we have realised the present day policy of Government in the matter of handing over such industrial schemes to private individuals or bodies after the period of experimentation. We realise even now that the Government are not at all wrong in introducing that policy, *viz.* of first inducing public confidence in a measure by making experiments at Government cost and then handing it over to private companies. Unlike the experience we had before, Government are now always out to get the confidence of the public in all matters important. I am glad to note that Government mean business in that way too. I do not think I will be disclosing a confidence when I say that Government have begun to consult public opinion before they launch on a scheme. For example Government have consulted officials and non-officials in regard to the University Scheme and they propose to do so (I know) before joining the Federation. Sir, we are all very much pleased and elated to find that the feelings in our minds are being voiced by you in your address. If there is any point of disagreement, I may say that they are not on points of fundamental importance. Human nature being what it is, there is always bound to be differences of opinion. There may be bickerings. We welcome bickerings. Bickerings alone will pave the way to smooth working after adjustment. We are all starting with great expectations. In conclusion, may I say that we are looking forward with great expectations the immediate arrival back home of His Gracious Highness the Maharaja and the Royal party, with very fruitful experience in other countries.

MR. E. E. PANDARATHIL (*Member, Sri Mulam Assembly*): Sir, allow me to associate myself with what has been said by the previous speakers in expressing my profound gratitude to His Highness the Maharaja for the gracious message in which he has again shown that the interests of this country are always in his heart. Even in this voyage of discovery for our benefit from a sister culture he has not forgotten us. The benefit of our State is writ large in his mind. Sir, the sentiments and ideas that you have expressed in your address fill us with confidence and encouragement. We have been too long patting ourselves with the idea that ours is a country with great possibilities

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Your words have brought home the fact that we have to face concrete facts. The question of education touches me most, because I come from a constituency which lacks education. We have been worshipping education, worshipping the training of the head more than the training of the hand and it is time that we develop our technical abilities and use our hands a little more than we have been doing in the past. A new re-orientation of the system of education will be all to our good.

Sir, along with the replanning and the improvement of the urban areas, I think you have referred also to the rural problems. As a matter of fact, your reference to the re-constitution and enlargement of the Land Mortgage Bank with a view to redeem the plight of the debt-burdened peasants of this State is a matter concerning the rural areas. That, I consider, is sufficient indication of the benefit that the agriculturist is going to derive from your new schemes.

Once again expressing our loyalty and devotion to His Highness, I conclude.

PRESIDENT : I have listened not only with interest but with considerable gratitude to the sentiments that have been given expression to. I look forward confidently to that discriminating co-operation which has been promised to Government. Co-operation which is not discriminating, which does not mix with it an element of judicious criticism, mere mechanical assent, is futile, is worthless. I therefore value that co-operation which is based on judgment and on discrimination.

I shall convey to His Highness, as in duty bound, those sentiments of loyalty and devotion, to him and to his dynasty, which, I know, are assured by every community and every individual in the State. His Highness has ceased to be the Maha Raja of Travancore solely : he has become an all-India, a world figure. But, the affection, the loyal devotion of his subjects will surely be encouragement to one who has been very rightly and very legitimately described as the greatest patriot in Travancore. I shall convey to him your feelings of devotional loyalty with the utmost pleasure.

The business before the Joint Session will now conclude. I thank you all for your patience and for your kindness.

The Joint Session adjourned at 4-46 P. M.

E. I. CHACKO,
Secretary to the Sri Mulam Assembly.

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